

CHESTER-LE-STREET
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

and Sanitary Inspectors

FOR THE YEAR 1938.

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GAVIN MILLAR, M.B., Ch.B., B.Hy., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
CHESTER-LE-STREET,
15th May, 1939.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council of
Chester-le-Street.**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my fourth annual report on the health and sanitary condition of the Rural District, for the year ending 31st December, 1938.

The report is drawn up on the lines suggested by the Ministry of Health, and is an "ordinary report."

The report may be regarded as indicating a satisfactory state of Public Health. The birth rate has risen, and the death rate reduced. There has also been a reduction in Infant and Maternal Mortality rates; the Infant Mortality Rate is the lowest ever recorded in the Rural District. The incidence of the notifiable diseases has increased slightly, but has not reached epidemic proportions.

The number of houses found to be overcrowded at the end of the year is considerably less than in the previous year. The construction of new houses goes on continuously, but progress in this direction has been retarded by the difficulty in obtaining suitable sites in certain areas, due to the mineral position.

Sewage disposal has also received attention, and new sewage disposal works are in course of construction in several districts.

It is unfortunate that greater advantage is not taken of the Local Authority's scheme for the free immunisation of children against Diphtheria.

Air Raid Precautions are now taking up a great deal of your Officers' time.

I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their continued help and support.

My thanks are also due to the Clerk, Sanitary Inspectors, Sanitary Surveyor, and all other Officers, for their assistance and co-operation throughout the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

GAVIN MILLAR,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health:—

GAVIN MILLAR, M.B., Ch.B., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Sanitary Surveyor:—

GEORGE B. BROWN, Cert. R.S.I.

Sanitary Inspectors:—

TOM S. WADGE, Cert. R.S.I.

THOMAS FOSTER, A.R.S.I. and Meat Certificate in meat inspection of the R.S.I.

A 50% grant is payable in respect of the salaries of the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspectors.

SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area.

The area of the district is 24,640 acres, the density of the population being 1.75 persons per acre.

Population.

The Registrar-General's estimate of population for the Rural District for mid-year 1938 is 43,030 and shows a decrease of 200 compared with the estimate for mid-year 1937.

Inhabited Houses.

Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate				
Book at the end of 1938 ...	...	...	...	10,996
Number of houses occupied at Census, 1931 ...	12,026			

Rateable Value.

The rateable value of the district on 31st December, 1938, was £145,938 and a penny rate represented the sum of £507 7s. 10d.

Social Conditions.

Coal mining, with which are associated coke burning, the manufacture of bricks, tiles and drain pipes, continues to be the chief industry of the district. At the present time, as a result of the Housing Acts 1930 to 1936, there is considerable activity in the building and associated trades, in constructing new houses and in the repair and reconstruction of old dwellings. A large number of people are also employed in the production of munitions at the Royal Ordnance Factory, Birtley. In addition to these, many people are engaged in the manufacture of chemicals and electric cables, and in the Tinplate and Iron Works at Birtley. The British Oxygen Company have recently completed and commenced production in a new factory in the district, where I have no doubt many people will be employed.

Despite several new light industries which have been started in the district, there are still many unemployed. It seems strange that with so many unemployed persons in the area, a number of industries find it necessary to recruit unskilled labour from without the district. The employee has a distance to travel to work, as the District Council is unable to provide housing accommodation for these people near the industry owing to the heavy programme for which it is responsible under the Housing Acts.

The social conditions of the people have not been ameliorated to any marked degree during the year, because of the continued unemployment and the comparatively low wages paid to many persons in employment.

Many people are living on a low dietetic standard between minimum and optimum requirements, and they therefore do not enjoy robust health, which a more liberal diet would make possible. Cow's milk, fresh fruit and first class protein are deficient in the diet of many of the people.

Bad housing conditions and overcrowding are also important factors in the slow recovery in the social condition of the people. The Rural District Council is pressing forward the housing programme as fast as possible, but considerable difficulty with consequent delay is experienced, because of the difficulty in obtaining suitable sites for rehousing.

Poor Law Relief.

I am indebted to Mr. R. P. Barrass, Area Public Assistance Officer, for supplying me with the following information with reference to the number of cases chargeable to the Public Assistance Committee in the area covered by the Chester-le-Street Rural District Council on December 31st, 1937 and 1938.

			Ordinary.	Able-bodied.
31st December, 1937	...	...	1391	9
31st December, 1938	...	...	1411	7

Unemployment.

As the unemployed from the Rural District sign on at several Labour Exchanges, some of which are situated outside the area, it is difficult to obtain any reliable information as to the number of unemployed signing on for the period covered by the report.

Townships.

The Chester-le-Street Rural District consists of the following townships: Biddick South, Birtley, Bournmoor, Edmondsley, Harraton, Lambton, Lamesley, Lumley Great, Lumley Little, Ouston, Pelton, Plawsworth, Urpeth, Walldridge and Sacriston.

Population, Acreage, etc., of Townships at end of 1938.

Township	Approx. Popu- lation	Acreage in Acres	No. of inhabited houses according to rate book	Persons per Acre
Biddick South	48	348	12	0.1
Birtley	11,540	1,429	2,885	8.1
Bournmoor	1,720	513	430	3.4
Edmondsley	2,112	2,099	528	1.0
Harraton	2,884	2,669	721	1.1
Lambton	112	697	28	0.2
Lamesley	4,116	6,679	1,029	0.6
Lumley Great	1,688	1,642	422	1.0
Lumley Little	1,624	875	406	1.9
Ouston	944	641	236	1.5
Pelton	6,996	926	1,749	7.6
Plawsworth	1,588	1,249	397	1.3
Urpeth	2,332	1,825	583	1.3
Walldridge	824	725	206	1.1
Sacriston	5,456	2,324	1,364	2.4

Extracts of Vital Statistics.

Live Births:

	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	720	379	341
Illegitimate	21	6	15
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population			17.2
Still Births	23	14	9
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births			30.1
Deaths	446	241	205
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population			10.4
Deaths from puerperal causes (headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :-			

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	1	1.31
No. 30 Other puerperal causes	1	1.32
Total	2	2.63

Death rate of infants under one year of age :-

All Infants per 1,000 live births	55
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate Live Births	53
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate Live Births	143
Deaths from Cancer (at all ages)	35
Deaths from Measles (at all ages)	2
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	2

Vital Statistics.

The following table gives the vital statistics of the district for 1938 and previous years:-

Year	Estimated Resident Population Mid-year	Births		Deaths		Infant Mortality Rate
		No.	Rate	No.	Rate	
1931	53,350	1,016	19.0	653	12.2	82
1932	52,991	1,016	19.2	609	11.5	85
1933	51,180	934	18.2	562	10.9	77
1934	50,150	847	16.9	623	12.4	73
1935	49,360	811	16.4	578	11.7	63
1936	47,065	809	17.0	566	11.9	61
1937	43,230	694	15.8	521	11.8	71
1938	43,030	741	17.2	446	10.4	55

Births.

The number of live births registered in the Rural District during 1938 was 741, equal to a birth rate of 17.2 per 1,000 of the population, compared with 15.8 during 1937. The rate for the past year is higher than the previous year. The corresponding rate for the whole of the country was 15.1.

Of the total births registered 379 males and 341 females were legitimate and 6 males and 15 females illegitimate, the percentage of illegitimate births to total births being 2.9.

The number of still-births registered was 23, equal to a rate of 30.1 per 1,000 (live and still) births, compared with 50.0 during 1937. Of the still births registered 12 males and 7 females were legitimate and 2 males and 2 females illegitimate.

Deaths.

The number of deaths registered in the Rural District, during the year, after correction for inward and outward transfers, was 466, equal to a death rate of 10.4 per 1,000 population, compared with 11.8 in the previous year. Of the total deaths registered, 241 were males and 205 females.

Included in this number of deaths are those of 125 residents of the district who died elsewhere, but 10 residents of other districts who died in the Rural District are excluded.

The Registrar General has supplied me with a factor, known as the comparability factor, by which the crude death rate of the Rural District should be multiplied in order to make it comparable, from a mortality point of view, with the crude death rate of the country as a whole or with the mortality of any other local area, the crude death rate of which should be similarly modified with its own factor for this purpose. The comparability factor for the Rural District is 1.19. The adjusted death rate for the Rural District is therefore 12.3 per 1,000 population.

The death rates for the various townships were as follows :

Township	Population	No. of Deaths	Death Rate per 1,000 Population
Biddick South	... 48	—	—
Birtley	... 11,540	102	8.8
Bournmoor	... 1,720	14	8.6
Edmondsley	... 2,112	20	9.6
Harraton	... 2,884	38	13.2
Lambton	... 112	—	—
Lamesley	... 4,116	33	8.0
Lumley Great	... 1,688	10	6.0
Lumley Little	... 1,624	17	10.5
Ouston	... 944	9	9.5
Pelton	... 6,996	79	11.3
Plawsworth	... 1,588	17	10.7
Urpeth	... 2,332	23	9.9
Waldridge	... 824	14	17.0
Sacriston	... 5,456	70	12.8

The following were the chief causes of death during the year :—

Cause	Number	Percentage of Total Deaths
1. Diseases of Heart	137	30.8
2. Cerebral Haemorrhage and other Circulatory Diseases	54	12.1
3. Cancer	35	7.8
4. Respiratory Diseases	34	7.6
5. Violence	27	6.1
6. Tuberculosis (all forms)	25	5.6

The age at death is summarised below :—

				Number of Deaths	Percentage of Total Deaths
Under 1 year	...	...	...	41	9.2
1-5 years	...	...	...	9	2.0
5-15 years	...	...	...	10	2.2
15-25 years	...	...	...	22	4.9
25-45 years	...	...	...	41	9.2
45-65 years	...	...	...	123	27.6
65 years and upwards	...	...	...	200	44.8

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes (Registrar General's figures) :—

CAUSES OF DEATH.						Male	Female
ALL CAUSES						241	205
1.	Typhoid fever, etc.	...	...	...	...	—	—
2.	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	2
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	—	1
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	1
6.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	6	2
7.	Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	—	1
8.	Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	...	—	—
9.	Respiratory Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	9	12
10.	Other tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	1	3
11.	Syphilis	...	...	...	...	—	—
12.	General paralysis of insane, etc.	...	...	...	...	2	—
13.	Cancer	...	...	...	...	15	20
14.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	4	3
15.	Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	...	...	...	8	9
16.	Heart disease	...	...	...	...	73	64
17.	Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	—	—
18.	Other Circulatory	...	...	...	...	23	14
19.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	3	3
20.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	14	6
21.	Other respiratory	...	...	...	...	6	2
22.	Peptic Uleer	...	...	...	...	2	1
23.	Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	1	1
24.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	1	2
25.	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	—	—
26.	Other Liver diseases	...	...	...	...	1	2
27.	Other digestive	...	...	...	...	5	4
28.	Nephritis	...	...	...	...	7	5
29.	Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	—	1
30.	Other puerperal	...	...	...	...	—	1
31.	Congenital causes	...	...	...	...	14	10
32.	Senility	...	...	...	...	3	6
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	3	1
34.	Other violence	...	...	...	...	19	8
35.	Other defined causes	...	...	...	...	17	18
36.	Ill-defined causes	...	...	...	...	4	2

It will be seen from the above table that there has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year. The chief causes of death enumerated are regarded as the principle killing diseases.

Deaths from Cancer and Tuberculosis will be referred to later in the report in that section dealing with these diseases.

There were two deaths registered from puerperal causes, which is a decrease of three from the previous year.

Infant Mortality.

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age registered during the year was 41 and is 8 less than in the previous year. This gives an infant mortality rate of 55, compared with 71 for the previous year 1937.

The death rate of legitimate infants under one year of age per 1,000 legitimate live births was 53, while the death rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births was 143.

The table on page 13 gives the causes of death in infants under one year of age.

Neo natal deaths (deaths occurring during the first month of life) numbered 26, and were responsible for 63 per cent. of the total rate. Of this number 18 died in the first week of life, which is equal to 44 per cent. of the total rate.

Congenital debility and premature birth accounted for 21 of the deaths in the first month of life. Deaths of this type are usually associated with some diseased condition in the mother and I must again stress the necessity of pregnant women availing themselves of the amenities provided for antenatal care.

Pneumonia was the chief cause of death in infants over one month and under one year of age.

It is pleasing to report a big drop in the number of deaths in children from diarrhoea, and this in some small measure may be accounted for by the conversion scheme carried out in this district.

The table on page 14 gives the birth rate, death rate and analysis of mortality during the year 1938 for the Rural District and other areas.

INFANT DEATH ANALYSIS.

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under four weeks	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	2	5
Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2
Premature Birth	11	1	2	...	14	1	...	...	...	15
Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmus	5	...	...	1	6	...	...	...	...	6
Malformation	2	2	...	...	4	...	...	1	...	5
Septicaemia	...	1	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	3
Convulsions	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1
Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
	18	4	2	2	26	2	5	4	4	41

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1938.

	Rate per 1,000 Total Population		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population.								Rate per 1,000 Live Births	
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes	Typhoid and Para-Typhoid Fevers	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years)	Total deaths under one year
England and Wales ...	15.1	0.60	11.6	0.00	—	0.04	0.01	0.03	0.07	0.11	5.5	53
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	15.0	0.65	11.7	0.00	—	0.05	0.01	0.03	0.07	0.10	7.8	57
148 Smaller Towns estimated Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census, 1931 ...	15.4	0.60	11.0	0.00	—	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.06	0.11	3.6	51
London	13.4	0.48	11.4	0.00	—	0.06	0.01	0.03	0.05	0.06	13.1	57
Chester-le-Street R.D.	17.2	0.53	10.4	0.00	—	0.05	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.19	2.7	55

The maternal mortality rates for England and Wales are as follows :			Puerperal Sepsis			Others		Total
			per 1,000 Live Births			2.19		3.08
			per 1,000 Total Births			2.11		2.97

SECTION B—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. **Public Health Officers of the Authority.**

For a detailed list of the staff of the Public Health Department, see page 5.

2. (a) **Laboratory Facilities.**

Arrangements for the examination of pathological and bacteriological specimens remain the same as in the past. These are examined at the Public Health Laboratory, King's College, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Samples of water are examined at the above laboratory, whilst milk samples are examined and reported upon by the Agricultural Department of King's College.

During the year, the following bacteriological examinations were carried out with the results appended.

Disease		Positive	Negative	Total
Diphtheria	... ..	49	254	303
Tuberculosis	... ..	34	189	223
Enteric Fever	... ..	—	17	17

The total number of samples examined is equal to a rate of 12.6 per 1,000 of the population.

It is pleasing to report an increase in the number of specimens examined, for although laboratory methods can never replace clinical examination, it is very helpful in arriving at a diagnosis and in detecting carriers. All immediate contacts of Diphtheria in this area have throat swabs taken for examination.

(b) **Ambulance Facilities.**

It cannot be reported that the district is adequately supplied with ambulances. Infectious Diseases are removed to hospital in a modern vehicle kept at the Isolation Hospital, and cases of Puerperal Pyrexia requiring hospital treatment are removed in an ambulance provided by the Local Authority.

The Chester-le-Street and District Ambulance Committee maintain a motor ambulance which is stationed at the Northern General Transport Company's Garage, Chester-le-Street. In addition to the above ambulances the Lambton, Hetton and Joicey, Pelaw Main and Charlaw and Sacriston Colliery Companies have ambulances for colliery accidents stationed at Harraton, Stanley, Birtley and Sacriston. The Pelton and Sacriston Miners' Welfare Association maintain ambulances for removal to hospital of their own members.

(c) **Nursing in the Home.**

(1) **General.**

General nursing in the home is carried out in this district by the various District Nursing Associations, the majority of which are affiliated to the County Nursing Association.

The Secretaries of the Nursing Association have kindly supplied me with the following particulars of work carried out during the year.

Name of Nursing Association	Township Served	No. of Nurses Employed	Cases Nursed	Visits Paid
Birtley	Birtley	1	162	4095
Lumley and Fence Houses	Great Lumley, Little Lumley, Bournmoor, South Biddick (part)	2	307	7630
Ouston, Urpeth and Pelton ...	Ouston, Urpeth, Pelton	1	140	3543
Pelton Fell ...	Pelton Fell, Newfield, Pelton Lane Ends, Grange Villa	2	278	5588
Sacriston ...	Sacriston, Edmondsley	2	144	3378
Waldridge ...	Waldridge, Chester Moor	3	200	3560

(2) **Infectious Diseases.**

District Nursing Associations in this district receive a grant from the County Council under the Local Government Act towards the expenses incurred in the home nursing of cases of measles, whooping cough, epidemic diarrhoea, ophthalmia neonatorum, tuberculosis and poliomyelitis in young children.

(3) **Tuberculosis.**

The health visitor, provided by the County Council, visits all notified cases of Tuberculosis, and gives valuable advice and help on matters affecting the health and well-being of the patient.

The health visitor may be regarded as the connecting link between the home and the various public health services of the district. A valuable return on the home conditions of persons suffering from Tuberculosis is made to the Local Authority.

(4) **Midwives.**

A district domiciliary midwifery service is provided by the County Council either directly or through the District Nursing Association.

(d) **Clinics and Treatment Centres.**

The following list gives a brief description of the Clinics and Treatment Centres available for the inhabitants of the area.

Name	Situation	Provided by	Accommodation
Maternity and Child Welfare	(a) Birtley (b) Sacriston (c) Grange Villa	Durham County Council	Waiting and Consulting Rooms
Tuberculosis	(a) Chester-le-Street	Durham County Council	Waiting and Consulting Rooms
School Clinics	(a) Birtley	Durham County Council	Medical, Dental & Optical R'ms Waiting and Dressing Rooms
*Venereal Diseases	(a) Newcastle-on-Tyne (b) Durham	Durham County Council	Waiting, Consulting and Treatment Rooms

*Venereal Diseases—Railway Fare Vouchers are issued to poor people by the County Council.

(c) **Hospitals—Public and Voluntary.**

1. **Fever.**

The Hospital is situated within the Urban District of Chester-le-Street and is managed by a Joint Hospital Board, which consists of representatives from the Rural District of Chester-le-Street and the Urban Districts of Chester-le-Street and Washington.

Accommodation is provided for 96 patients in 66 beds and 30 cots. There are five blocks, three of which are open ward blocks, one provides cell isolation and the other cubicle isolation. In the open ward blocks there are six wards containing in all 48 beds and 12 cots. In the cell isolation block there are 12 beds and 12 cots and in the cubicle block 6 beds and 6 cots.

The cell and cubicle blocks have been found to be extremely useful, for it is possible to treat different diseases under the same roof with safety, and to isolate patients in whom a definite diagnosis has not been made. Special diseases are also treated in these blocks.

There is also the administration block, nurses' home, laundry, disinfectory, mortuary and a residence for a male member of the staff. A classroom is also provided where lectures are given to the probationer nurses.

The hospital is recognised as a training school for nurses by the General Nursing Council.

2. **Smallpox.**

Accommodation for cases of Smallpox is provided at the Shincliffe Hospital, near Durham.

3. **Tuberculosis.**

The Durham County Council provides sanatoria and hospitals outside the district for men, women and children suffering from Tuberculosis. Clothing and travelling expenses are provided by the County Council in necessitous cases. Excellent work is done in these institutions towards the restoration of the patient's health, but unfortunately the patient often returns to an overcrowded or bad house, and the improvement is not maintained.

4. **Maternity.**

The County Council of Durham have made arrangements with the Princess Mary Maternity Hospital, Newcastle-on-Tyne, to admit all puerperal cases occurring in the district which require hospital treatment. The E.F. Peile County Convalescent Home, Shotley Bridge, is controlled by the County Council of Durham and admits nursing mothers with their babies and children under five years of age. Accommodation for unmarried mothers is provided at St. Monnica's Home, Bishop Auckland.

5. **Children.**

The medical and surgical needs of children are catered for at the Sick Children's Hospital, Newcastle-on-Tyne, the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and suitable cases are dealt with at Relton House, Chester-le-Street. No arrangements are made by the Local Authority for the admission of such cases.

SECTION C—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. **Water.**

Brown's Buildings in the Birtley Parish, and Pelaw Grange Terrace in the Harraton Parish, have now been connected up to the 6-inch main of the Durham County Water Board. The Lambton, Hetton & Joicey Colliery Company have also cleaned out and where necessary replaced the branch pipes, and the supply as a result is greatly improved. In the past these houses were supplied by a private pipe belonging to the London & North Eastern Railway Company and the pressure was inadequate.

A new supply has been provided for Biddick Lane, Lambton and Castle Streets, Fatfield, in the Harraton Parish, and appears to be adequate. The supply is taken from the Council Houses in Fatfield by a 4-inch main from the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company's supply area and replaces the supply from the Lambton, Hetton and Joicey Colliery Company. This change took place in March; 131 houses were affected, and there are now 315 houses altogether on this supply.

Complaints are still received from the Findon Hill area in the Sacriston Parish in the supply area of the Durham County Water Board. The Board, however, has now promised to provide a water tower, which the Board considers will remedy the deficiency.

The supply to the village of Portobello in the Birtley Parish was found to be deficient in quantity during the year. This was due to the tremendous quantity of water used in some of the factories in Birtley; however, the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company provided a temporary supply from their Black House main, which remedied the deficiency. This temporary supply will remain until the Company complete their new 15-inch main from Low Fell to Birtley.

As the result of a bad report on a sample of water the reservoir at Lumley, which is within the area of the Council's supply, was emptied and cleansed during the year. Following this cleansing the reports on the samples submitted were good. The workmen employed in this work were examined before entering the reservoir to eliminate the possibility of any of them being carriers of the enteric group of organisms.

The district has a piped supply of water from the mains of public companies, with the exception of a few isolated houses which rely on springs and wells.

Samples of water are taken at monthly intervals from different points in the supply area of each public undertaking and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle-on-Tyne, for examination and report. During the year 61 samples were taken and of that number 14 were reported as not satisfactory. Two of the unsatisfactory samples were from the mains of the Durham County Water Board, two from the supply area of the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, seven were within the supply area of this Council, and the remainder from the supplies of isolated houses.

In every case a copy of the report was sent to the body concerned, together with a letter asking for immediate steps to be taken to render the supply pure and wholesome. They were also requested to notify the Council as to what steps had been taken, and check samples were taken for further examination. Generally it was found that the bad sample was due to

insufficient flushing of the mains, particularly at dead ends, and when this had been carried out a further sample proved the supply to be suitable for drinking purposes. The flushing of the mains is now carried out at more frequent intervals.

The water supply to isolated houses raises a problem which is not easy to overcome, as there is no other supply within reasonable distance. The Sanitary Surveyor is dealing with this problem, and in the meantime the owners of properties concerned have been notified that their tenants must boil all water until such times as the supply is free from suspicion.

2. Drainage and Sewerage.

A new 9in. sewer was constructed during the year to take the sewage from Urpeth Colliery and the Ouston Council houses. This sewer joins the main Pelton and Perkinsville sewer 350 yards north-east of Low Urpeth farm. This work was carried out with the help of a grant (75%) from the Commissioner for Special Areas.

New sewage disposal works are in course of construction at Sacriston and Edmondsley, and proposals for new works at Waldrige have been approved by the Ministry of Health. These works will be modern in design and will replace at Sacriston and Edmondsley works which are no longer capable of dealing with the sewage they are called upon to treat.

In the case of Edmondsley the sewage from a considerable number of houses which now discharges direct to the Cong Burn will be treated at the new works. The sewage from the village of Waldrige is at the present time discharged direct into the Cong Burn.

These schemes will rank for grant from the Commissioner for Special Areas, who has promised to bear 75% of the cost. This will considerably reduce the burden on the local taxpayer and will lead to a much needed improvement in the condition of rivers and streams.

The Ministry of Health has also asked the Rural District Council to submit a scheme to replace existing works at Alma, Grange Villa. The initial suggestion here was that the sewage draining to these works should be treated within the Urban District of Chester-le-Street, but the Rural District Council did not favour this suggestion.

The Rural District Council have reluctantly agreed to prepare a scheme to pump the sewage, which now gravitates to the works at Floaters Mill, into the Urban District of Houghton-le-Spring for treatment.

The Rural Districts of Chester-le-Street and Durham have recently agreed to a scheme which provides for the treatment of sewage from Kimblesworth at the Plawsworth works of the former Council.

When these schemes have been completed, it can be said that the district is fairly well sewered. There will still remain a few houses which cannot be connected up and which drain to cesspools or discharge direct into streams.

3. **Rivers and Streams.**

The Sanitary Surveyor is preparing a scheme to pipe in a section of the Blindy Burn, which runs through the populous village of Grange Villa, for submission to the Commissioner for Special Areas with a view to obtaining a grant. In its present state the burn is a nuisance, due to the deposit of all kinds of refuse in it.

There should be considerable improvement in the condition of rivers and streams when all the sewage disposal schemes have been completed.

4. (i) **Closet Accommodation.**

No conversions were carried out by the Local Authority during the year, but the following conversions were done by the owners, who received half the cost of the conversion from the District Council.

Sacrison	...	...	7
Plawsworth	...	...	4
Edmondsley	...	...	9
Pelton	...	...	8

Privy Conversion Scheme No. 3 for approximately 500 houses and for which a grant will be paid by the Commissioner for Special Areas was commenced in January, 1939.

The following premises, which can be converted to the water carriage system, remain to be done.

Urpeth	...	...	154
Pelton	...	...	442
Edmondsley	...	...	143
Waldridge	...	...	8
Sacrison	...	...	564
Little Lumley	...	...	244
Lambton	...	...	5
Bournmoor	...	...	75
			<hr/> 1635 <hr/>

The following is a summary of the sanitary conveniences in the areas at the end of the year.

Number of water closets	...	...	9013
Number of ashclosets	...	...	2526
Number of privies	...	...	371

(ii) **Public Cleansing.**

Part of the Parish of Harraton and the Parish of South Biddick are scavenged by contract; the remainder of the district is done by direct labour. About 500 houses are scavenged by contract.

The Birtley and Lamesley parishes are united for scavenging purposes and have two motor wagons, and in the Pelton parish one motor vehicle is used. In the remaining districts the work is done by horse and cart.

The refuse collected is dealt with by controlled tipping or is deposited on arable land to be ploughed in. The Local Authority is finding difficulty in obtaining suitable sites for tipping, and in view of the danger to health caused by children and others interfering with the tips, I consider that some other form of refuse disposal should be considered in the near future.

In parts of the district which have been converted to the water carriage system, fixed receptacles should be superseded by dustbins. In this way another danger to health would be removed.

On the whole the scavenging work in the Rural District is fairly well carried out.

(iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Reference to the reports of the Sanitary Inspectors at the end of this report will show that this work has been carried out with care throughout the year.

(iv) Shops.

No action was taken during the year under the Shops Act, 1934.

Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

			Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories	...	...	97	5	—
Workshops	...	...	116	2	—
Workplaces	...	...	32	1	—
			245	8	Nil

Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

(Nuisances under the Public Health Act.)

			Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	No. of offences in respect to which prose- cutions were instituted
Want of Cleanliness	...	...	1	1	—	—
Want of Ventilation	...	...	—	—	—	—
Want of Drainage of Floors	...	...	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances	...	...	4	4	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation:						
Unsuitable or defective	...	...	—	—	—	—
Insufficient	...	...	3	2	—	—
Totals	...	...	8	7	Nil	Nil

(v) **Camping Sites.**

There were no sites in the area which were used for camping purposes during 1938.

(vi) **Smoke Abatement.**

The nuisance arising from the burning pit heap at Harraton Colliery has been abated. The Colliery Company pumped puddled clay into the heap and this had the desired effect. The same may be said of the nuisance from the Sacriston Colliery heap, but in this case the Colliery Company pumped water from the pit on to the heap.

The same unfortunately cannot be said of the heap at Ouston E Pit, and apart from anything else, it might be a danger in time of war.

Complaints were received during the year from the residents of Team Colliery, where stone heaps were started on the sites of others which had been removed to the site of the Team Valley Trading Estate. The Colliery Company was approached and a deputation from the Local Authority waited on officials of the Ministry of Health. The Colliery Company eventually agreed to erect barriers to overcome the dust nuisance. The heap is not yet on fire.

The Sanitary Inspectors also investigated complaints of smoke nuisances from a factory in Birtley and a brickworks in the Lumley parishes. Suggestions were made to the people concerned and your officials are continuing to take observations.

(vii) **Swimming Baths and Pools.**

There are two swimming baths in the district which are open to the public. One at Birtley, which is an open air pool and which was constructed by the Parish Council with help from the Commissioner for Special Areas; the other at New Lambton, provided by the Miner's Welfare, is a closed pool. Both are modern in design with efficient plants for filtering and treating the water chemically.

Samples of water from the pools are taken throughout the swimming season and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, King's College, Newcastle, for bacteriological examination. Last year all the samples were reported as satisfactory.

Pit head baths are provided in the district at Harraton, Team and Kibblesworth Collieries and are proving very helpful and beneficial to the miners who use them. The baths must be a great boon to the miners' wives, who no longer have to dry and clean wet pit clothes, and provide a copious supply of hot water for the bath in the tub in front of the fire.

(viii) **Eradication of Bed Bugs.**

No action was taken during the year by the Council for the eradication of bed bugs.

4. **Schools.**

School closure to check the spread of infectious disease was not necessary during the year.

New schools will shortly be provided at Eighton Banks, Kibblesworth and West Pelton. The sooner these schools are provided the better, because the existing schools are, to say the least, very far from satisfactory. The existing school at Eighton Banks has now become dangerous and is causing some concern to the parents of children attending this school.

SECTION D—HOUSING.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1938.

1.—**Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year:—**

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1,222
(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose	1,345
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925)	72
(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose	98
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	72
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	597

2.—**Remedy of Defects during the year Without Service of Formal Notices:—**

No. of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	595
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3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

A.—Proceedings under Section 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By Owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	289
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By Owners	289
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	48
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	18

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	12
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement room having been rendered fit	Nil

4.—Housing Act, 1936, Part IV.—Overcrowding:—

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	635
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	709
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	2,494
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	10
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	437
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	2,851
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	Nil

Slum Clearance and Individual Unfit Houses.

70 Clearance Orders involving 1,041 houses, which were the subject of a local inquiry in 1937, were confirmed by the Ministry of Health during the year. A local inquiry was held in February, 1938, into the Blackhorse Terrace Slum Clearance Order, which consisted of twelve back-to-back houses, and this order was also confirmed.

Demolition orders under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, in respect of 60 houses, were made by the Rural District Council during the year.

Sites for houses were purchased at Sacriston, Edmondsley, Bournmoor, Fatfield, Pelton Lane Ends, Brown's Buildings and Kibblesworth. The schemes at Brown's Buildings and Kibblesworth were completed during the year and the houses occupied.

Building by direct labour was commenced at Pelton Lane Ends (54 houses), Fatfield (158 houses) and Edmondsley (43 houses) during the year, and at Sacriston (256 houses) in January, 1939.

Considerable delay in re-housing the occupants of houses, which have been dealt with under the Housing Acts, 1930 to 1936, has been experienced in this district due to (1) the difficulty in obtaining suitable sites (2) shortage of skilled labour. It is unfortunate that this delay has occurred, since it means that houses, which are totally unfit for human habitation, continue to be occupied to the detriment of the health of the occupants.

In future housing schemes provision must be made for a number of houses suitable for aged persons, and facilities should also be provided for recreation and education.

There are still in the district many houses which are not fit for human habitation, and these will be dealt with either as individual unfit houses or included in slum clearance schemes, when re-housing for properties already dealt with is further advanced.

Houses, which were on inspection found not to be in every respect fit for habitation, were also dealt with during the year, and necessary repairs, alteration and reconstruction carried out.

Housing must now be regarded as one of the most important duties of the health official, and he must spare no effort to ensure for every member of the community housing conditions with amenities conducive to good health.

It is to be deplored that so many of the houses in the district lack a bath, which in my opinion is essential to every house. Many of the houses do not even possess a sink, and this state of affairs must be remedied in the very near future.

The following table gives the total number of houses which have been dealt with under the Housing Acts, 1930 to 1936, by the Local Authority.

Parish.	Slum Clearance	Individual Unfit Houses	Total	No. of houses built for rehousing	Houses in course of erection
Birtley ...	715	159	874	591	59
Bournmoor ...	73	22	95	67	—
Edmondsley ...	122	8	130	18	43
Harraton ...	155	42	197	44	158
Lamesley ...	165	70	235	130	—
Lumley Great ...	120	51	171	—	—
Lumley Little ...	27	14	41	—	—
Ouston ...	7	—	7	48	—
Pelton ...	180	90	270	—	—
Plawsworth ...	60	33	93	38	—
Urpeth ...	82	29	111	49	54
Waldridge ...	14	66	80	—	—
Sacrison ...	197	46	243	9	256
Totals ...	1917	630	2547	994	570

Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, 1926, 1938.

Application for Grants under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, during the year 1938:—

	Grant Approved	£	s.	d.
Improvements and additions to 4 Cottages, North Biddick Farm	£100 per house	400	0	0
Alterations to 1 house, 7, Front Street, Sacriston	Not approved			
Reconstruction of 2 houses at Stone Row, Twizell	£100 per house	200	0	0
Reconstruction of 1 house, Twizell Dykes Farm	£100 per house	100	0	0
Reconstruction of 1 house, Twizell Wood End	£100 per house	100	0	0
Reconstruction of 2 houses, Howlmires, Nettlesworth ...	£100 per house	200	0	0
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		£1000	0	0

Overcrowding.

635 houses, involving 709 families and 2,494 persons, were overcrowded at the end of the year. 437 cases of overcrowding were relieved during the year. When the initial survey of the district was made under the Housing Act, 1935, 1,556 houses were overcrowded. Many of these cases have been relieved as a result of Slum Clearance removals, because so far no houses have been built specifically for overcrowding. Several are in course of construction for this purpose.

Proceedings were taken during the year against seven tenants for taking in sub-tenants and so causing the dwelling to become overcrowded after the appointed day (1st July, 1938), one owner for allowing three of his houses to become overcrowded, and three owners for not complying with that part of the Act relating to entries in rent books. In all cases a fine was imposed.

There are many dwellings in the area which house more than one family, and although the presence of another family does not cause overcrowding, it is a state of affairs which cannot be regarded with satisfaction.

At the end of the year the following Council houses were occupied.

Pelton	...	...	...	113
Perkinsville	...	...	...	213
Sacriston	...	...	...	100
Lumley	...	...	...	122
Eighton Banks	...	...	...	134
Edmondsley	...	...	...	163
Fatfield	...	...	...	154
Birtley	...	...	...	1151
Bournmoor	...	...	...	142
Nettlesworth	...	...	...	38
Team Colliery	...	...	...	22
Ouston	...	...	...	48
Urpeth	...	...	...	49
Kibblesworth	...	...	...	63
Total				2512

During the year 63 houses have been built by private enterprise and 253 by the Local Authority, as follows:—

Parish	Private Enterprise	Local Authority
Birtley	16	168
Bournmoor	5	—
Harraton	12	—
Lamesley	8	66
Little Lumley	6	—
Pelton	7	—
Plawsworth	1	—
Urpeth	—	19
Sacriston	8	—

SECTION E—INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

The cowsheds, dairies, and milk shops in the district are regularly inspected by members of the sanitary staff, and everything possible is done to ensure for the inhabitants a clean milk supply. The buildings and equipment are generally of a good standard, and alterations have been carried out during the year to a number of premises which did not come

up to modern standards. Unfortunately, there are still a few premises which are not all that could be desired, but a careful watch is kept and suggestions made for improving the premises.

Samples of milk are taken at regular intervals by the Sanitary Inspectors and submitted to the Agricultural Department, King's College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, for examination. 143 samples of milk were examined during the year, and 75% of the samples were within the prescribed standard of accredited milk. In every case a copy of the report on the sample is sent to the producer concerned, and if the report is not up to standard, a check sample is taken. Should the check sample not come up to requirements, then the producer is invited to appear before the appropriate Committee of the Council to show cause why his registration should not be cancelled. This action generally has the necessary effect, and further samples are much improved.

82 samples of milk were also examined during the year for the presence of the Tubercle Bacillus. The samples were of mixed milk from individual herds; 23 of them were designated, and 59 of undesignated milk, and 7 were reported positive, which is equal to 8.5% of the samples examined. The samples containing the Tubercle Bacillus were from 3 undesignated and 4 designated milk.

I was instructed to get comparative figures from other Rural Authorities, but neither the Ministry of Health nor the County Council can supply these figures.

Samples submitted for biological examination from the whole of the County in 1937 gave the following percentages: 2.6 for designated and 4.4 for undesignated milks. From these figures it will be seen that the presence of the tubercle bacillus in milk is high and must be regarded as a real danger, particularly to children.

It is necessary here to differentiate between a "clean" and a "safe" milk supply. A clean milk is one which contains less than 200,000 organisms per millimetre and no bacillus coli in 1/100c.c., whereas a safe milk is one which contains no organisms which are capable of causing disease in man.

In this district milk production is clean, as evidenced by the analysis of 143 samples of milk last year, when 75% were within clean limits. Much has been done to ensure clean milk production. Premises have been reconstructed, new dairies provided, and the veterinary staff have made visits to the farms at regular intervals to examine the cattle.

The presence of the tubercle bacillus in milk cannot be regarded complacently, as it is responsible for some of the tuberculosis of bones, joints and glands, etc., in children. Milk is such a perfect and complete food, particularly for growing children, that its omission from the diet may lead to serious consequences; therefore it is doubly necessary that milk should be safe.

As soon as the results of the samples were received, the County Medical Officer was notified, as required by Section 4 of the Milk and Dairies Consolidation Act, 1915. In turn, the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries was notified, and he immediately caused an examination of the herd to be made. Samples of milk were taken by the veterinary staff and examined (i) microscopically, and (ii) biologically.

In this way, the offending cow was eventually traced in every case but two, and those traced were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938. A post mortem examination was carried out, and the presence of Tuberculosis demonstrated.

Unfortunately, there is some unavoidable delay between taking the original sample and receiving the final report, approximately 3 months. During this time there may be changes in the herd, and a cow responsible for producing tuberculous milk may be sold, to continue to produce infected milk elsewhere. It is difficult to know how to speed up the process, but, as suggested by the Economic Advisory Council Committee on Cattle Diseases:

“The efficacy of routine clinical inspection would be materially increased if adequate use were made of the microscopic and the biological testing of herd milk samples. This is of particular importance where cows with clinical symptoms have been removed from a herd.”

The routine veterinary inspection of dairy herds, whilst responsible for removing much of the grosser infection, can never reduce infection to really small proportions, because many cows yielding tuberculous milk are not discoverable by clinical examination.

The total eradication of bovine tuberculous from all herds, which everybody agrees is the only method to solve the problem of tuberculous milk, is impracticable.

In the first place, the immediate cost would be prohibitive; secondly, such a course would seriously interfere with the milk supply of the country; and thirdly, the continual movement of cattle between herds would add materially to the difficulties.

In my opinion only two types of milk, namely, tuberculin tested and pasteurised, should be sold to the public.

(b) **Meat and Other Foods.**

The following is a summary of the work carried out by your Sanitary Inspectors during the year.

CARCASES INSPECTED:—

Beef	...	...	...	...	...	1004
Mutton	...	...	...	...	...	2137
Pork	...	...	...	...	...	718
Veal	...	...	...	...	...	6
TOTAL						<hr/> 3865 <hr/>

MEAT CONDEMNED AND DESTROYED:—

Beef	...	...	...	...	281½ stones.
Mutton	...	...	...	...	6 "
Pork	...	...	...	...	28 "
Heads (Beef)	...	...	...	...	20
Heads (Pork)	...	...	...	...	7
Lungs	...	...	...	...	129
Livers	...	...	...	...	73
Kidneys	...	...	...	...	10
Fats	...	...	...	...	58

Carcases Inspected and Condemned:—

	Cattle, excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)	778	322	6	2137	718
Number inspected ..	778	322	6	2137	718
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS					
Whole carcases condemned	2	..	..	1	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	5	6	..	4	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ..	0.90	1.86	..	0.23	0.56
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
Whole carcases condemned	3	2	..	..	..
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	21	121	..	..	18
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ..	3.08	38.20	..	..	2.51

There are six registered and nine licensed slaughter houses in the area, and complaints about them are seldom received. The standard of cleanliness is good, and all precautions are taken to protect the food from contamination.

The slaughter houses are visited regularly by the Sanitary Inspectors either at or immediately after slaughter, and the figures given above demonstrate how unremitting this attention has been. The public may therefore rest assured that the chance of buying diseased meat in this district is very small.

By resolution of the Council, Sheep, Ewes, Wethers, Rams and Lambs, are included for humane and scientific slaughter in accordance with Part 1 of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

Further details of meat inspection will be found in the reports of the Sanitary Inspectors.

(c) Adulteration.

Durham County Council is responsible for the administration of the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, the Artificial Cream Act, 1929, the Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations, 1923 and 1927, the Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations, 1923 and 1927, and the Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations, 1925 and 1927.

(d) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

Samples of Milk taken by your Sanitary Inspectors for advisory purposes are submitted to the Agricultural Department, King's College, Newcastle-on-Tyne, for examination and report.

The examination of other food samples, taken by the Inspectors of Durham County Council, is undertaken by the County Analyst, whose premises are situated in Darlington.

(e) Nutrition.

Advice is given to mothers attending the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics on this important subject of nutrition, and in addition to this, children now receive instruction at the domestic science centres of elementary and secondary schools. Every available opportunity is taken to discuss and help these people in the better understanding of this difficult and complicated subject.

SECTION F—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

No change was made during the year in the notifiable diseases.

Prevalence.

542 Notifications were received during the year compared with 477 the previous year and 634 in 1936. An increase in all notifiable diseases was noted with the exception of Pneumonia, Enteric Fever and non-pulmonary Tuberculosis.

The following table gives the number of cases notified during the past ten years:—

Disease.	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
Smallpox ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	169	164	134	201	370	572	306	215	179	226
Diphtheria ...	67	46	41	47	61	148	146	157	72	108
Enteric Fever ...	1	7	4	1	8	...	7	...	2	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	...	1	2	8	12	3	2	1	...	...
Polio-myelitis ...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ...	97	49	85	97	67	90	84	130	106	69
Puerperal Fever ...	4	1	3	2	1	3	...	1	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	6	8	4	9	7	4	5	5	5	12
Erysipelas ...	18	42	32	18	36	45	31	32	32	50
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	10	7	3	2	4	2	1	4	5	2
Tuberculosis:—										
Pulmonary ...	72	82	65	67	51	53	49	48	49	40
Non-Pulmonary	74	69	41	52	41	36	39	41	27	35

1938.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	AT AGES—YEARS.							TOWNSHIPS.												Total No. Notified	Removed to Hospital																
	AT AGES—YEARS.							TOWNSHIPS.																													
	Under 1	1 to 5	6 to 15	16 to 25	26 to 45	46 to 65	66 up	At all ages	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November			December	Biddick, South	Birtley	Bournmoor	Edmondsley	Harraton	Lambton	Lamesley	Lamley, Great	Lamley, Little	Custon	Pelton	Plawsworth	T'peth	Waldridge	Sacriston
Diphtheria ..	..	29	66	9	4	..	..	108	15	5	11	9	10	6	7	5	9	12	10	9	..	13	2	17	22	..	10	4	7	2	7	1	1	..	22	108	107
Encephalitis Lethargica	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas ..	1	..	2	21	21	5	50	6	6	10	1	1	3	..	7	3	5	4	4	..	9	6	2	3	..	4	..	3	1	15	..	3	1	3	50	9	
Ophthalmia ..	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
Pneumonia ..	4	14	10	11	15	12	3	69	10	12	13	2	5	1	5	1	4	4	3	9	..	9	3	5	4	..	3	1	3	..	15	2	8	..	16	69	2
Puerperal Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	..	..	..	7	5	..	12	2	..	1	1	1	1	1	..	..	1	1	3	1	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	2	4	12	9
Scarlet Fever	1	80	114	20	11	..	226	31	36	16	17	25	27	23	17	12	8	9	5	1	40	14	18	18	..	14	9	19	10	60	..	7	1	15	226	191	
Small-pox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary	..	..	6	18	15	1	40	2	7	6	6	3	2	3	6	..	1	1	3	..	15	..	1	5	..	4	..	2	1	5	..	3	..	4	40	..	
.. Non-Pulmonary	..	1	4	17	11	2	35	2	5	..	5	5	2	3	2	4	..	1	6	..	14	2	2	3	..	2	..	1	..	5	1	..	..	5	35	..	
Totals ..	8	124	200	84	82	36	8542	68	71	57	42	50	42	41	39	33	31	31	37	1	102	27	46	55	..	38	14	35	14	111	4	22	4	69	542	38	

The attack rates of the notifiable diseases per 1,000 of the population for the Rural District, compared with the rates for England and Wales are shown on the following table:—

Disease.			Chester-le-Street Rural District.	England and Wales.
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	5.25	2.41
Diphtheria ...	...	...	2.51	1.58
Enteric Fever ...	...	...	0.00	0.03
Erysipelas ...	...	...	1.16	0.40
Pneumonia ...	...	...	1.60	1.10

Prevalence of notifiable diseases in the various townships is shown in the following table, which gives the attack rate per 1,000 of the population:—

Township.			Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Pneu- monia.	Ery- sipelas.
Biddick South ...	...	...	20.83	—	—	—
Birtley ...	...	...	3.46	1.13	0.78	0.78
Bournmoor ...	...	...	8.14	1.16	1.74	3.48
Edmondsley ...	...	...	8.52	8.05	2.36	0.94
Harraton ...	...	...	6.24	7.63	1.38	1.04
Lambton ...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Lamesley ...	...	...	3.40	2.43	0.72	0.97
Lumley Great ...	...	...	5.33	2.37	0.59	—
Lumley Little ...	...	...	11.70	4.31	1.85	1.85
Ouston ...	...	...	10.60	2.12	—	1.06
Pelton ...	...	...	8.58	1.00	2.15	2.15
Plawsworth ...	...	...	—	0.63	1.26	—
Urpeth ...	...	...	3.00	0.43	3.43	1.29
Waldridge ...	...	...	1.21	—	—	1.21
Sacriston ...	...	...	2.75	4.03	2.93	0.55

Scarlet Fever.

226 notifications of Scarlet Fever were received during the year, which is an increase of 49 over the previous year. The disease was responsible for one death, which gives a mortality rate of 0.02 per 1,000 of the population. The attack rate was 5.25 per 1,000 of the population. Of the 226 cases notified, 191 cases were treated in the Isolation Hospital.

The disease was generally mild in character and the fact that the disease caused such little upset to the patient's condition may be responsible for the increased number of cases. It is very easy for the true nature of the illness to be

missed, so that parents frequently do not bother to call in medical advice, with the result that after a few days confinement to the house the child resumes normal activities and is responsible for infecting other children.

The epidemiology of the organism responsible for Scarlet Fever, *Streptococcus Haemolyticus*, has made enormous strides during recent years and there can be little doubt that the nomenclature of the various diseases caused by the above organism will be reviewed in the light of this improved knowledge.

Where conditions are suitable for isolation at home, there is not the slightest doubt that it is much better than hospitalisation where the patient is treated in an open ward. The *streptococcus haemolyticus* belongs to a broad group of organisms in which there are many different types, so that it is not difficult to understand how easy it is for a child to be re-infected with another type. This state of affairs is undoubtedly responsible for a number of the so-called complications of Scarlet Fever.

Anti-Scarlatinal Serum is used at the Isolation Hospital in all toxic cases with beneficial results and advantage has also been taken of the recent contribution of chemistry to medical science, namely sulphanilamide. A combination of the above methods of attack on the germ responsible for Scarlet Fever appears to have a marked effect on its ultimate behaviour.

The average duration of stay in hospital of Scarlet Fever patients was 28 days.

Diphtheria.

An increased incidence of Diphtheria was noted during the year, but taking into consideration the prevalence of the disease in surrounding districts, the increase has not been alarming. 108 cases were notified compared with 72 for the previous year. One case was treated at home. The attack rate of Diphtheria was 2.51 per 1,000 of the population. The disease was responsible for one death, which is equal to a death rate of 0.02 per 1,000 of the population.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is provided free to medical practitioners by the Local Authority for use in the district.

It is regrettable that better advantage has not been taken by the public of the facilities offered by the Local Authority for protection of children against this dreaded disease. Of a susceptible child population of 5,000, approximately 350 have been immunised against Diphtheria since the inauguration of the scheme in 1936. This small proportion of children protected cannot have the slightest effect on the incidence of the disease in this district. I feel sure that the value of this protective measure is not fully understood by parents, otherwise many more would have taken advantage of it, and it is a matter for concern that so few children are protected.

I must again stress the necessity for the early administration of adequate doses of Antitoxin. The earlier antitoxin is given the greater are the chances of complete recovery. Nothing is more upsetting than to see a child admitted to hospital in a late day of disease, where no antitoxin has been given.

Laboratory methods, although of extreme value, can never replace clinical diagnosis, which is the only method at our disposal for the immediate diagnosis of Diphtheria. Suspected cases of Diphtheria are admitted to the Isolation Hospital at any time for observation.

Swabs from the throats and discharges or sores of immediate contacts of cases of Diphtheria are taken in your district. In this way numerous carriers of virulent organisms have been located and treated.

Several cases admitted to hospital during the year were infected with the gravis type of bacillus and the disease in these cases was extremely severe.

In view of the increased incidence of Diphtheria in this district it is to be hoped that parents will take immediate steps to have their children protected. Full particulars of how this can best be done will be given on application to this department.

Enteric Fever.

It is gratifying to report that no cases of Enteric Fever were notified during the year.

Three of your workmen who were engaged in cleansing a supply reservoir in the supply area of your water undertaking were examined by the Medical Officer of Health during the year. None of the men examined were liable to spread the infection of Enteric Fever.

Pneumonia.

There was a big drop in the number of notifications of Pneumonia received during the year. 69 cases were notified compared with 106 in the previous year. This is equal to an attack rate of 1.60 per 1,000 of the population. 20 deaths were registered as due to this disease, which gives a death rate of 0.46 per 1,000 of the population. Two of the cases were treated at the Isolation Hospital, where they were admitted as suspected enteric fever.

Erysipelas.

Erysipelas was more prevalent during the past year, when 50 notifications were received as against 32 in 1937. Erysipelas, like Scarlet Fever, is caused by a Streptococcus and it will be observed that there has been an increase in both diseases. 9 of the cases were treated in the Isolation Hospital, where use was made of antistreptococcal serum and one of the sulphanilamide preparations, with marked results.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

13 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified during the year and 9 of these patients were treated in hospital under the Durham County Council scheme. A private ambulance provided by the Local Authority conveyed the patients to the institution.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

2 cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified during the year. Both were treated at home and the condition apparently cleared up with no injury to the sight.

Influenza.

Influenza is not a notifiable disease and it is therefore difficult for the health official to gauge its prevalence. Notifications of Pneumonia taken with the number of deaths from Influenza gives a rough guide, and from these it would appear that the disease was not very prevalent during 1938. Influenza appeared as the cause of death on 8 death certificates and this gives a death rate of 0.19 per 1,000 of the population. The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 0.11.

Cancer.

35 deaths were registered during the year as being due to Cancer, which is equal to a death rate of 0.81 per 1,000 of the population.

Of the 35 deaths, 15 occurred in males and 20 in females. No undue occupational prevalence was noted.

There has been a considerable drop in the number of deaths due to Cancer during the year and this may be accounted for by sufferers seeking medical advice earlier. The disease is curable if treatment is given early.

The following table gives the age group and distribution of the disease.

MORTALITY FROM CANCER DURING 1938.

Age Group.	Buccal Cavity.		Stomach, Liver, etc.		Peritoneum, Intestines, Rectum.		Skin.		Bone.		Lungs.		Breast.		Female Genital Organs	Prostrate and Bladder.		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F
1-5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5-15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15-25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
25-35	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
35-45	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
45-55	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	5	...	...	2	6
55-65	1	1	1	2	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	5	6
65 and upwards	...	...	3	3	2	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	1	1	...	8	6
Total ...	1	1	5	5	4	...	1	...	2	...	1	2	...	5	7	1	...	15	20

Prevention of Blindness.

No action was taken during the year under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

Tuberculosis.

No action was taken during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to the persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade), or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

New cases and mortality from Tuberculosis during 1938.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1-5 ...	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	1
5-15 ...	2	2	8	7	—	—	—	1
15-25 ...	7	10	6	8	3	3	1	—
25-35 ...	6	5	1	3	1	5	—	—
35-45 ...	2	2	—	—	1	2	—	1
45-55 ...	—	1	—	—	3	—	—	—
55-65 ...	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	—
65 & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	17	20	16	21	9	12	1	3

The following table gives the notifications and deaths occurring in the Rural District during the past five years.

Year	Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Non-Pulmonary	
	Notifications	Deaths	Notifications	Deaths
1934 ...	53	35	36	11
1935 ...	49	30	39	13
1936 ...	40	34	41	9
1937 ...	49	19	27	10
1938 ...	40	21	35	4

The unfortunate state of affairs still exists where a patient returns to an overcrowded or bad house, and the improvement gained by sanatorium treatment is rapidly lost. Every tuberculous patient should be housed in a dwelling which provides a separate room for the patient.

Samples of milk in this district are now being taken and examined for the presence of the tubercle bacillus.

The Local Authority supplies disinfectants to tuberculous persons for the disinfection of sputum and the washing of floors, etc.

Houses in which deaths take place from Tuberculosis are disinfected by the Local Authority, and any bedding which cannot be disinfected by steam is destroyed and the household compensated.

Chester-le-Street Rural District Council

(SOUTHERN AREA)

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Chester-le-Street Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my 28th Annual Report, giving a detailed account of the sanitary work done, and the sanitary improvements that have been effected in the Southern Area during the year 1938.

District.

My district is the Southern division, comprising the parishes of South Biddick, Bournmoor, Little Lumley, Great Lumley, Plawsworth, Sacriston, Edmondsley, Waldrige and Pelton, with an acreage of 11,378 acres and an approximate population of 23,000, occupying 5,482 dwelling houses.

During September I was appointed Chief Air Raid Warden for my area, which entailed a large amount of extra work, to the detriment of my ordinary duties as Sanitary Inspector.

Inspections.

During the year the district has been regularly inspected for the detection of nuisances, the supervision of new buildings, works in progress, slaughter-houses, bakehouses, workshops, cowsheds, dairies, the storage of petrol and the removal of house refuse.

Nuisances.

During the year 593 informal notices were served requiring the abatement of nuisances chiefly arising from structural defects in dwelling houses, sanitary conveniences and drainage.

Summary of Nuisances dealt with during the year 1938.

Nuisances	No. of Informal Notices	No. of Formal Notices	No. of Nuisances abated after Notice
Drainage—			
Drains defective	84	...	78
Cesspools defective	1	...	1
Scullery sinks waste pipes ...	30	...	34
Sanitary Conveniences—			
Waterclosets defective	23	...	23
Ashclosets defective ... ..	...	...	...
Ashbins defective	36	...	36
Privy middens	9	...	9
Dwelling houses—			
Roofs defective	137	...	130
Spoutings defective	137	...	122
Floors defective	7	...	7
Windows defective	36	...	39
Walls defective	22	...	23
Ceilings, etc., defective	12	...	10
Fireplaces and Chimneys	6	...	6
Yard pavements	43	...	41
Cowsheds	2	...	2
Refuse and manure	4	...	4
Keeping of animals improperly	2	...	2
Other nuisances	2	...	2
Total	593	...	569

Housing.

During the year 46 houses were inspected and reported to the Council, under the Housing Acts of 1936. 23 of the houses, which could not be made fit at a reasonable cost, had Demolition Orders made on them; the remainder, mostly back to back houses, will be reconstructed into through houses when the Council are in a position to provide houses for the present tenants.

37 new houses have been erected by private enterprise.

21 houses have been closed to human habitation.

10 houses have been reconstructed.

1 house converted into two houses.

10 houses have had bathroom and sculleries provided.

During the year the following houses had demolition orders made on them, under Section 11 of the Housing Acts.

	No. of Houses
Pelton Parish.	
Nos. 1 and 2, Twizell Wood End	2
No. 1, High Twizel Cottage	1
No. 1 and 2, Office Square, West Pelton	2
Sacriston Parish.	
Nos. 1 and 2, New Close Farm	2
Acorn Cottage	1
Nos. 1 and 2, Gas Works	2
Tin Castle	1
Turnbull's Cottage	1
Plawsworth Parish.	
Nos. 1—6, Club Cottages	6
Great Lumley Parish.	
4th Pit Cottage	1
No. 6, Chapel Row	1
Little Lumley.	
Bankside Cottage	1
Edmondsley.	
Nos. 9 and 10, Wellington Terrace	2
	<hr/>
	23
	<hr/>

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1938.

1.— Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	330
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	330
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	46
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	46
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	46

(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	Nil
2.—Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices:—		
	No. of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	27
3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—		
A.—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—		
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a)	By Owners	Nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—		
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	284
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a)	By Owners	284
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
C.—Proceedings under section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—		
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	23
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	6
D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—		
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	12
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

New Houses erected during the year 1938.

Pelton Parish	Pelton Small Holdings	...	...	14
	Pelton Lane Ends	...	...	7
Sacriston Parish	Plawsworth Road (Smith)	...	...	1
	Cross Lanes	...	...	2
	Witton Road	...	...	2
	1 big house, converted into	2	...	1
	houses	...	...	1

Bournmoor Parish	Golf Course Road	...	...	1
	Primrose Hill	...	...	2
Little Lumley Parish	Aged Miners' Homes, Castle Dene	...	...	6
Plawsworth Parish	Lawson's	...	...	1
				<hr/> 37

Houses closed during the year 1938.

Pelton Parish	Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, Wear's Buildings, West Pelton	...	...	6
	Nos. 20a, 21a, 22a, 23a, 24a, 25a, Stone Row, Grange Villa	...	...	6
	No. 33, Black Horse Terrace	...	...	1
Plawsworth Parish	No. 1, Club Cottages	...	...	1
	Nos. 1 and 2, Howlmires	...	...	2
	1, Morris Buildings	...	...	1
Sacriston Parish	Turnbull's Cottage, Daisy Hill	...	...	1
Little Lumley Parish	Bankside Cottage, Castle Dene	...	...	1
Bournmoor Parish	Nos. 3 and 4, Elbay	...	...	2
				<hr/> 21

Houses reconstructed during the year 1938.

Plawsworth Parish	Nos. 1, 2, 3, Granby Terrace	...	...	3
	Sculleries and enclosed yards provided, with water-closets therein, in lieu of ashpit privies inconveniently situated.	...	...
	Sunniside Cottage	...	...	1
	Roof raised, scullery and water-closet provided, windows renewed and enlarged, walls coated with pebbledash.	...	...
Sacriston Parish	Wilton House. Bathroom and scullery provided (Woodside)	...	...	1
	Wellington House. Bathroom and scullery provided	...	...	1
	No. 51 and 51a, Front Street. Reconstructed	...	...	2
	Workmen's Club. Bathroom, etc., provided	...	...	1

Pelton Parish	...	No. 20—25, Stone Row, Grange Villa	...	...	...	...	6
		Tenemented houses of 2 rooms each, made into self-contained houses of 3 bedrooms, kitchen and scullery.					
		No. 16, Queen St., Grange Villa					1
		Scullery, etc., provided.					
Edmondsley Parish		Nos. 1—9 Jubilee Terrace, Black-house	...	...	...	...	9
		Enclosed yards constructed, with waterclosets therein, in lieu of privies and ashpits across the back street, scullery sinks also provided.					
Bournmoor Parish		Boundary Cottage	...	...			1
		Scullery, etc., provided and generally repaired.					
Great Lumley Parish	...	Middle Farm	...	...	...		1
		Bathroom and scullery provided, lighting improved, and generally repaired.					
							—
							27
							—

Sanitary Conveniences.

There are in the area 3,480 water-closets, 2,037 ash-closets and 213 privies.

During the year 28 water-closets have been constructed. The work in this respect has somewhat been hindered, owing to the Council's sewerage schemes being held up in the Grange Villa, Fence Houses, Edmondsley and Sacriston areas; but I am pleased to say that since the turn of the present year, conversion schemes have been carried out at Fence Houses, Bournmoor, New Lambton and Edmondsley, which leaves only the Sacriston and Grange Villa areas to be completed, which I hope will be done during the present year.

The following water-closets have been constructed at:

Sacriston Parish.

Wilton House, Sacriston	...	...	...	...	1
Wellington House, Findon Hill	...	...	...	...	1
51, 51a, Front Street, Sacriston	...	...	...	...	2
Brigham House, Sacriston	...	...	...	...	1
Iredale's Shop, Sacriston	...	...	...	...	1
Sacriston Workmen's Club	...	...	...	...	1

Plawsworth Parish.

1—3, Granby Terrace	3
Sunniside Cottage	1

Edmondsley Parish.

1—9, Jubilee Terrace	9
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Pelton Parish.

20—25, Stone Row, Grange Villa	6
Nos. 6 and 16, Grange Villa	2
					<hr/>
					28
					<hr/>

TABLE SHOWING NUMBER OF DWELLING-HOUSES, PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND CLOSET ACCOMMODATION IN EACH PARISH ON 31st DECEMBER, 1938.

Parish	Description of Buildings	No. of Buildings	Description of Sanitary Conveniences			Refuse Receptacles		
			Water closets	Ash-closets	Privies	Ash-bins	Ash-pits covered	Ash-pits uncovered
South Biddick	Dwelling-houses	13	10	4	2	4	7	..
	Public Buildings	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Lambton ..	Dwelling-houses	29	8	14	2	4	2	..
Edmondsley	Dwelling-houses	532	216	232	60	53	163	61
	Public Buildings	4	19	..	..	5	..	..
	Workshops ..	3	..	4	..	..	..	..
Pelton ..	Dwelling-houses	1725	1100	594	21	600	442	70
	Public Buildings	15	131	2	..	20	..	..
	Workshops ..	7	4	3	..	..	..	..
Plawsworth	Dwelling-houses	394	350	..	4	213	129	4
	Public Buildings	6	22	2	..	..	..	..
	Workshops ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..
Little Lumley	Dwelling-houses	412	104	320	..	21	49	..
	Public Buildings	4	24	2	..	..	..	..
	Workshops ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..
Great Lumley	Dwelling-houses	427	330	71	26	158	166	18
	Public Buildings	9	14	2	..	..	..	..
	Workshops ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..
Bournmoor	Dwelling-houses	432	313	77	49	228	54	32
	Public Buildings	9	29	..	5	10	..	..
	Workshops ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..
Waldridge ..	Dwelling-houses	198	179	23	1	164	17	1
	Public Buildings	5	9	1	..	5	..	..
Sacriston ..	Dwelling-houses	1320	561	679	43	260	371	46
	Public Buildings	12	44	..	..	19	1	..
	Workshops ..	14	8	3	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	Dwelling-houses	5482	3171	2014	208	1705	1400	232
	Public Buildings	65	297	9	5	59	1	..
	Workshops ..	38	12	14	..	..	..	..
	Totals ..	5575	3480	2037	213	1764	1401	232

Cowsheds and Dairies.

There are 31 cowkeepers and 43 purveyors of milk in the area. The cowsheds and dairies have been regularly inspected to ensure that they are kept in a clean and good condition. The buildings and equipment are of a good standard for maintaining the health of the cattle therein and aiding in the production of clean milk.

During the year alterations and improvements have been effected at the following farms:

New Lambton Farm.

The cowshed has been rebuilt and brought up-to-date requirements.

Twizel Dykes Farm.

A new cowshed and dairy have been erected to replace the old cowshed and dairy; sterilising equipment has also been provided.

Middle Farm, Lumley.

A new dairy has been erected.

There are 6 producers who have qualified for the accredited scheme, viz.:—

Hy. Darling, West House Farm, Sacriston.

Mrs. T. Young, Broomyholme Farm, Edmondsley.

H. B. McClarence, Grange Farm, Lumley.

J. R. Henderson, East Farm, Lumley.

J. Shield, West Farm, Waldrige.

R. Smith, Hall Farm, Waldrige.

The following purveyors sell Graded Milk in the area:

North West Co-operative Dairies, Pasteurised Milk.

New Bottle Co-operative Society, Accredited and Tuberculin Tested.

T. B. Shields, Chilton Moor, Fence Houses, Tuberculin Tested.

Milk Samples.

During the year 89 samples of milk were taken and submitted to the King's College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, for bacteriological examination; 17 of the samples were found not to be within the prescribed standard of accredited milk.

Also 40 samples of milk were taken and submitted to The King's College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, for biological examin-

ation, for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli. Tubercle Bacilli were found in three samples.

The results of such examinations were reported to the County Medical Officer; subsequently the Ministry of Agriculture made an investigation and were able to trace the cows that were responsible for giving infected milk and had them slaughtered.

Water Samples.

22 samples of water have been taken and submitted to The King's College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, for bacteriological examination. 15 of the samples were satisfactory, and 7 samples were unsatisfactory.

In the case of the unsatisfactory samples, the responsible water board was advised, and they took the steps to have the water supply purified.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned:—

	Cattle, excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs.
Number inspected ..	416	96	2	620	376
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	..	..	1	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	4	..	4	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ..	0.96	4.16	..	0.8	0.8
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	..	..	..	..
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	9	10	..	..	12
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ..	2.6	10.4	..	..	3.2

Meat Inspection.

416 carcasses of heifer and ox beef, and 96 carcasses of cow beef, 2 carcasses of veal, 620 carcasses of sheep and lambs, and 376 carcasses of pigs were examined.

3 carcasses of beef, 1 carcase of mutton, 1 carcase of pork, 12 pigs' heads, and 2 livers, 7 beasts' livers, and 19 beasts' lungs, were found to be unsound and not fit for human consumption. The same were destroyed by burning and burying.

Slaughter Houses.

There are 7 licensed, and 2 registered slaughter houses in the area, which have been regularly inspected, and are kept in a good condition.

Factories and Workshops.

In the area there are 10 factories, 16 workshops, and 8 bakehouses.

Factories.

Brick making 4, glazed brick works 1, pipeworks 1, cement kerb etc. 1, sausage making 1, bye product works 2.

Workshops.

Blacksmiths 2, motor repairing 1, joinery 2, watch repairing 1, knitting 1, boot repairing 7, tailoring 1, printing 1.

Bakehouses—8.

Inspections have been made for the supervision of the above workshops, etc., and were found to be kept in fairly good order. In one instance it was necessary to serve a notice for sufficient and proper sanitary conveniences to be provided.

These have been provided.

Petrol and Carbide Licences.

Petrol Licences.

There are 16 licences granted to persons to store 12,000 gallons of petrol in underground tanks in the area.

Calcium Carbide Licences.

Two persons are licensed to store 4 cwts. of Calcium Carbide in the area.

Scavenging.

The removal of house refuse is done by direct labour, with the exception of the South Biddick Parish, where it is done by Contract, there only being 14 houses at 19/3 per house per year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

TOM S. WADGE,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

May, 1939.

Chester - le - Street Rural District Council

(NORTHERN AREA)

Sanitary Inspector's Report for 1938.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my tenth Annual Report of the Housing and Sanitary Conditions in the Northern Area of your district, of the works carried out, and action taken in connection with Meat and Food Inspection, Dairies and Cowsheds, Factories and Workshops, and Scavenging.

Area and Population.

The Northern Area comprises the parishes of Birtley, Harraton, Lamesley, Ouston and Urpeth. There has been no alteration in the boundaries during the year.

The area is 12,216 acres, and the estimated population 20,894.

Housing.

The housing problem in the area is still very acute. There are 298 houses which have been dealt with under Slum Clearance for which orders have been confirmed which are still occupied. In addition to these, 109 houses have been dealt with under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, and Demolition Orders made, which are still occupied. The conditions of these houses are extremely bad, the structures are rapidly deteriorating and the dampness increasing. Houses which have been vacated adjoining occupied condemned houses are now becoming a nuisance and a danger to the health of the people living in the vicinity. Overcrowding is still rampant and there is a great need for an increase in the rate of production of new houses.

Considerable progress has been made in the demolition of Slum Clearance property which was dealt with under the Slum Clearance Scheme of 1934.

Van dwellers on Birtley Fell have been greatly reduced during the year, the tenants having been rehoused in Council houses. 6 occupied vans only remain in the area.

The hutments in Birtley have now all been demolished and replaced with new Council houses. This has effected a great improvement in the housing conditions of Birtley.

The number of houses demolished under Slum Clearance is 273.

The number of houses demolished following action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, is 16.

The number of houses and vans vacant awaiting demolition following action by the Council is 49.

The number of houses closed by voluntary action is 5.

During the year the following houses have been erected.

By Council	...	...	...	221
By Private Enterprise			...	19

The allocation of houses in Parishes is as follows:

			Council Houses	Private Enterprise	Total
Birtley	...	...	143	10	153
Harraton	...	...	—	7	7
Lamesley	...	...	66	2	68
Ouston	...	...	—	—	—
Urpeth	...	...	12	—	12
			<hr/> 221	<hr/> 19	<hr/> 240

Closet Accommodation.

With the exception of a small part of the parish of Urpeth, and isolated houses which owing to their situation can not be conveniently connected with the Council's sewers, the closet accommodation is now all on the water carriage system.

The area in Urpeth Parish not yet converted to the water carriage system has been submitted to the Ministry of Health as a suitable scheme, but cannot be approved until the sewage outfall works at Alma have been reconstructed and made satisfactory to deal with the sewage.

Scavenging.

With the exception of part of the parish of Harraton, all scavenging in the Northern Area is carried out by Direct Labour. In the parish of Harraton, the village of Fatfield and the new Council housing schemes are carried out by contract, the area being divided almost equally between two contractors.

The parishes of Birtley and Lamesley combine as a Scavenging Area, as also do Urpeth and Ouston. The work is carried out by a combination of motor vehicles and horse drawn vehicles.

Refuse which consists chiefly of dry ashes, tins, etc., is disposed of by controlled tipping. Suitable tips are selected, the refuse is deposited in layers of about 6 feet depth, the surface levelled and covered with soil.

The work is carried out satisfactorily and no complaints of neglect have been received during the year.

Trade refuse is mainly removed by the proprietors of businesses, but if requested the Council do undertake the work on payment for the amount of work estimated to be done during the period of one year.

The cost of scavenging in the parish of Harraton by contract is as follows:—

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| No. 1 Division : 248 houses and premises— | |
| | 12/10 per house per annum. |
| No. 2 Division : 340 houses and premises— | |
| | 10/- per house per annum. |

Water Supply.

The area is well supplied with water from the Public Service Mains of the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, the Durham County Water Board and the Lambton,

Hetton and Joicey Collieries Company's Supply. The only houses not so supplied are isolated houses and not within a reasonable distance of the mains. These premises have to rely on wells and springs which, as reported upon in my last report, were not all satisfactory. The position with regard to these supplies remains unsatisfactory.

During the year 39 samples of water, including water from Public Baths, have been submitted to the Public Health Department of King's College, Newcastle-on-Tyne, for bacteriological examination.

The results are as follows :—

Source	No. of Samples	Satis- factory	Moderately Satisfactory	Un- satisfactory
Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co.	9	4	3	2
Durham County Water Board	8	4	4	—
Lambton, Hetton and Joicey Colliery Com- pany Supply ...	8	8	—	—
Private Supplies ...	9	7	1	1
Public Baths	5	4	1	—
Totals	39	27	9	3

Dairies and Cowsheds.

There are 37 registered dairies in the Northern Area, 12 of which premises are producing accredited milk. 9 of the above producers dispose of their milk wholesale, the remainder retail within the district. There are also 12 purveyors of milk in the area.

Premises in the area are generally of a good standard. The premises which are not all that could be desired are generally small cowsheds where only one or two cows are kept and where the cost of reconstruction would not be an economic proposition. Every effort is made by frequent visits to maintain a state of cleanliness which will give a clean and wholesome supply of milk.

During the year 54 samples of milk were taken and submitted to the Agricultural Department at King's College, Newcastle-on-Tyne, for bacteriological examination; of these, 34 samples were reported to be within accredited limits.

42 samples of milk were also submitted to the same department for biological examination for Tubercular infection. Of these 4 were found to be positive. The County Medical Officer was informed of the results; he in turn notified the Veterinary Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, who made the necessary investigations and ultimately had the affected cows eliminated from the herds.

Meat Inspection.

There are two licensed and four registered slaughter houses in the area.

These premises are visited and inspected every week. The premises are well kept and there has been little cause of complaint during the year.

All carcasses are inspected either during or immediately after slaughter, and all meat condemned as unfit for food is destroyed by burning.

The following carcasses were inspected during the year:

Beef	...	...	588
Mutton	...	...	1517
Veal	...	...	4
Pork	...	...	342

The following meat was condemned as unfit for use:

Beef, including 4 whole carcasses	...	...	179½ stones.
Pork, including 1 whole carcase	...	...	18 „
Heads (Beef)	...	...	17
Heads (Pork)	...	...	6
Lungs	...	...	110
Livers	...	...	64
Kidneys	...	...	10
Fats	...	...	58

Appended is a summary of all animals killed and percentages of carcasses affected with Tuberculosis as distinct from other diseases.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle, excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)	362	226	4	1517	342
Number inspected ..	362	226	4	1517	342
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	..	..	..	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	2	2	..	..	..
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ..	0.83	0.88	..	..	0.29
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	2	..	..	..
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	12	111	..	..	6
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ..	3.59	50.00	..	..	1.75

Petroleum (Consolidated) Act, 1928.

Licences for the storage of Petrol and Carbide are issued on January 1st each year.

During the year 21 licences were issued, the authorised quantity of petrol to be stored being 21,000 gallons.

With the exception of 4 properly constructed brick built stores, properly equipped, all petrol is stored in steel underground tanks fitted with pumps.

There is one store which comes within the provisions of S.R.O. 1929, No. 952 in which 60 gallons of petrol is stored. This store is on the L.N.E. Railway Company's premises at Birtley. The conditions relating to such storage are adhered to.

There has been no complaint with regard to the storage of petrol during the year.

Carbide of Calcium.

There are 7 stores licensed for the storage of Carbide of Calcium in the area, the quantity stored being 7,272 lbs.

The stores are properly constructed and well maintained.

Smoke and Colliery Tip Heap Nuisances.

It has not been necessary to take any action with regard to the emission of black smoke from chimneys in the area during the year.

With regard to Tip Heaps, a serious complaint was received from the Teams Colliery. Representatives of the Mines Department visited and inspected the tip, certain suggestions were made for minimising the effects of the dust, and the suggestions have been carried out.

Pit Head Baths.

Pit Head Baths have been opened at Teams Colliery and Kibblesworth Colliery during the year, Harraton Colliery Baths having been opened in 1937.

These Baths have proved to be a great benefit to the miners of the areas concerned.

The accommodation consists of:—

					Cubicles	Lockers
Harraton ...	...	...	...	...	86	1600
Teams Colliery ...	...	...	...	...	52	1152
Kibblesworth ...	...	...	...	...	62	3000

Factories and Workshops.

There are 43 Factories and 24 Workshops, 32 Workplaces and 2 Bakehouses in the area. These premises are frequently inspected and any matters requiring attention are immediately attended to.

One new large factory is nearing completion for the British Oxygen Company at Vigo Lane, near Birtley, and a smaller place has been erected for the construction of Anti-gas Chambers at Pelaw Grange.

Inspection of Factories and Workshops.

Premises					Inspection	Written Notices
Factories	...	...	...	...	75	4
Workshops	...	...	...	...	68	2
Workplaces	...	...	...	...	32	1
					<hr/> 175	<hr/> 7
					<hr/>	<hr/>

Defects Found.

				Found	Remedied
Want of Cleanliness	...	...	...	1	1
Other Nuisances	...	...	...	4	4
Sanitary Accommodation :—					
Insufficient	...	...	...	2	1
Defective	...	...	...	—	—
				<hr/> 7	<hr/> 6
				<hr/>	<hr/>

**PARTICULARS OF SANITARY ACCOMMODATION AT
END OF YEAR 1938.**

Parish	Description of Buildings	No. of Buildings	Description of Sanitary Conveniences			Refuse Receptacles		
			Water closets	Ash-closets	Privies	Ash-bins	Ash-pits covered	Ash-pits uncovered
Birtley ..	Houses ..	2812	2831	96	11	2738	104	1
	Schools ..	8	115	..	..	23	..	..
	Public Buildings	34	70	..	..	34	..	..
	Factory and Workshops	61	210	7	1	46	4	..
	Total ..	2915	3226	103	12	2841	108	1
Harraton ..	Houses ..	743	655	96	27	568	42	9
	Schools ..	2	27	..	..	6	..	..
	Public Buildings	13	21	..	1	13	..	..
	Factory and Workshops	11	5	5	..	3	1	..
	Total ..	769	708	101	28	590	43	9
Lamesley ..	Houses ..	1029	930	92	33	839	63	8
	Schools ..	3	30	..	..	6	..	1
	Public Buildings	16	19	..	..	12	..	..
	Factory and Workshops	14	7	2	..	1	..	..
	Total ..	1062	986	94	33	858	63	9
Ouston ..	Houses ..	234	206	7	..	210	2	2
	Schools ..	1	8	..	..	9	1	..
	Public Buildings	7	4	..	..	2	1	..
	Factory and Workshops	6	14	1	..	..	..	1
	Total ..	248	232	8	..	221	4	3
Urpeth ..	Houses ..	597	352	180	85	264	116	9
	Schools ..	2	10	..	..	4	..	..
	Public Buildings	7	14	..	..	3	..	..
	Factory and Workshops	7	5	3	..	7	..	..
	Total ..	613	381	183	85	278	116	9
Summary (Northern Area)	Houses ..	5415	4974	471	156	4619	327	29
	Schools ..	16	190	..	..	48	1	1
	Public Buildings	77	128	..	1	64	1	..
	Factory and Workshops	99	241	18	1	57	5	1
	Total ..	5607	5533	489	158	4788	334	31

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Summary of Notices Served.

Description	No. of Informal Notices Given	No. of Formal Notices by Order of Authority	No. of Notices complied with	Remarks
Foul Conditions ...	9	—	9	*Includes certain outstanding notices.
Structural Defects ...	341	1	342*	
Overcrowding ...	—	6	6	
Dairies & Milk Shops	3	—	3	
Cowsheds ...	2	—	2	
Slaughter Houses ...	—	—	—	
Ashpits & Privies ...	7	17	24	
Deposits of Refuse	17	—	17	
Water Closets ...	53	—	53	
Defective Yard Paving ...	13	—	13	
Defective Traps ...	28	—	28	
Defective Drains ...	151	1	151	
Defective Water Supply ...	12	—	12	
Animals Improperly kept ...	1	—	1	
Smoke Nuisances ...	—	—	—	
Other Nuisances ...	—	—	—	
Defective Bins ...	77	—	77	
Totals ..	714	25	738	

Summary of Works carried out.

New Drains ...	644
Defective Drains Repaired	151
Inspection Chambers Constructed	206
Vent Shafts erected ...	13
New W.C.s (includes new houses)	282
W.C.s repaired	53
W.C.s demolished	281
E.C.s Abolished	23
Privies repaired	1
New Scullery Sinks ...	29
Scullery Sinks repaired	28
Covered Ashpits demolished	9
Open Ashpits demolished ...	4
Urinals provided ...	4
Urinals demolished ...	1

New Ashbins provided (including new houses)	317
Yards cemented	11
Yards enclosed	2
Houses constructed	240
Houses demolished	289
Houses closed	54
Back to Back Houses converted	2
Chimneys rebuilt	24
New Roofs	2
Roofs repaired	121
Spouting repaired	81
Walls cemented	59
Walls plastered	111
Walls repaired	77
New Ceilings	25
Ceilings repaired	27
New Windows	69
Windows repaired	66
New Stairs	3
Stairs repaired	4
Floors repaired	15
New Floors	25
Floors Ventilated	2
Air Drains Cut	1
Pantries repaired	13
New Pantries	2
Water Supply improved	12
New Sculleries	1
Sculleries repaired	1
New Wash Houses	3
New Coal Houses	1
Coal Houses repaired	4
Foul conditions remedied	9
Accumulations of Refuse removed	17
Animal or Poultry Nuisances abated	1
New Septic Tanks	1

Dairies and Cowsheds.

Cowsheds cleansed	3
Dairies—New	1
Dairies—Cleansed	1

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR YEAR 1938.

1.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	892
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	1,015
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head	
(1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	26
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	52
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	26
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	597

2.—Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices:—

No. of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	568
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3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

A.—Proceedings under section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By Owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	5
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By Owners	5
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	25
(2) Numbers of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	12

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | Nil |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | Nil |

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

THOS. FOSTER,

Cert. Insp. of Meat and Other Foods, R.S.I.

Cert. San. Inspector, R.S.I.

Sanitary Inspector (Northern Area).

